

REMARKS

Applicant's statement of substance of interview.

Applicants wish to express appreciation to Examiners Virginia M. Kibler and Mehrad Dastouri for the courtesy of an interview which was granted to Applicant's representative Michael Fabisch (Reg. No. 48,427). A personal interview was conducted at the USPTO on October 21, 2004. The substance of the interview is set forth in the Interview Summary, numbered Paper No. 10212004. During the interview, the Applicant's representative indicated that the Applicants had conceived the invention and reduced it to practice prior to the effective date of the Scola reference. It was agreed that the Applicants would provide a declaration under 37 CFR 1.131.

General remarks

Claims 1 – 27 are pending in the application.

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action in the present application. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Drawings

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR §1.84(p)(5) for not showing reference sign --1050-- mentioned in the description. A corrected Fig. 30B showing reference sign --1050-- is submitted herewith in a separate paper.

Specification

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection to the abstract, and to paragraphs 55, 113, 165, 174, 197, 459, 530 and 663 of the application, as published, in view of the self-explanatory corrections shown above.

Claims Rejections

Claims 1 – 8, 12 – 17, 19 and 21 – 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scola et al. (6,714,679) in view of Aloni (5,619,429)

Claims 9, 10, 11, 18, 20 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scola et al. (6,714,679) in view of Aloni (5,619,429) and Bachelder (5,974, 169).

Scola describes a boundary analyzer for determining defects of a boundary to sub-pixel resolution.

Aloni describes apparatus and a method for inspection of a patterned object, particularly an electrical circuit, by comparison thereof to a reference.

Bachelder describes machine vision methods for determining characteristics of an object using boundary points and bounding regions.

Applicants submit herewith a declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 showing that the invention described and claimed in the present application was conceived and reduced to practice in Israel, a WTO country, prior to February 5, 1998. The Scola et al. reference is thus inapplicable for rejecting the invention described and claimed in the present application. Subject matter contained in the Scola reference, and relied upon for rejection, is not provided by the other cited references. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that that the Examiner withdraw rejection of claims 1 - 27.

Conclusion and request for telephone interview

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in order. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 12-0425. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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